

# Bavarian News

Vol 2. Nr. 17

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

September 6, 2006

## Fallen Stryker Soldier remembered

by **ADRIANE FOSS**  
*Editor*

A 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldier who died at Vilseck last month was honored during a memorial service at the Rose Barracks theater Aug. 28.

Family, friends and fellow Soldiers attended the solemn ceremony to bid farewell to Pfc. Matthew C. Dehle, a Stryker armored personnel carrier with 2SCR's Company E, 2nd Squadron.

Dehle died after running up a hill during

physical training Aug. 23. The cause of death is under investigation.

During the memorial service, photos of Dehle with friends and family were projected on the theater screen.

Members of Dehle's command group took turns talking about Dehle's character, each noting him as a dedicated Soldier with a positive attitude.

"He had rosy red cheeks and a smile you couldn't slap off his face," said friend and fellow Soldier Pfc. Thomas Morris during the service.

Chaplain (Maj.) Jeffery Botsford said Dehle's family described him as the kind of person who "could make a very bad day okay," and said "once you were his friend, you were a friend for life."

Botsford also described 19-year-old Dehle as a great outdoorsman and a die-hard Dukes of Hazzard fan.

Born March 21, 1987, in Colville, Washington, Dehle joined the Army in July last year.

After attending One Station Unit Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort

Benning, Ga., he was assigned to the Vilseck-based 2SCR earlier this year.

His awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terror Service Medal.

He is survived by his wife, Holly Anne Dehle.



Dehle

### PROGRESS REPORT



PAO file photo

EBG construction projects include thousands of homes, 12 new or renovated barracks, and a PX.

## EBG's billion dollar construction on track

by **SETH ROBSON**

*Stars & Stripes, European Edition*

About half of the billion dollars' worth of construction projects to help the Army cope with the influx of thousands of Soldiers have been completed, according to the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Directorate of Public Works.

Grafenwoehr's DPW director, Dwane Watsek, said the Army's Efficient Basing Grafenwoehr construction projects — which include thousands of houses, 12 new or renovated barracks, two schools, a dining facility, wash racks for Stryker armored personnel carriers, 24 company headquarters and motor pools and the Army's largest post exchange in Europe — are all on track to be completed on time.

"We are executing as per the original plan in 2000," said Watsek. "We have had some hiccups. A couple of contractors have gone under, but we have recovered well. We expect to be done on time by late 2009 or early 2010."

The military construction budget for EBG is \$600 million, but once contributions for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Department of Defense Education Activity and housing costs are factored in, the total budget is about \$1 billion, he said.

"EBG is approaching its halfway point," said Watsek. "There are a few (projects) still in design but mostly they are in execution."

Watsek said many EBG projects are complete. A large administrative building near Gate 3, Bldg. 244, has been occupied since last year, along with the 7th Army Non Commissioned Officer Academy at Camp Normandy, said Grafenwoehr spokeswoman Susanne Bartsch.

A set of company headquarters was occupied by the 615th Military Police Company and the 12th Chemical Company earlier this year,

See **CONSTRUCTION** Page 16

### REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMS

## Oct. 3 deadline approaching for troops to file body armor claims

*Army News Service*

The Department of Defense has established Oct. 3 as the claims filing deadline for Soldiers seeking reimbursement for certain private purchases of protective, health, and safety equipment such as personal body armor.

Pursuant to a 2004 Act of Congress, the Armed Services began reimbursing service members in November 2005 for private purchases of qualifying equipment made between Sept. 11,

2001, and April 1, 2006, if purchases were made in anticipation of or during the service member's deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan.

Soldiers who made purchases that qualify for reimbursement, and have yet to file claims, must do so by Oct. 3. Claims should be filed with the Soldier's current unit.

Former Soldiers should mail their claims to the U.S. Army Claims Service at Fort Meade, Md. Claims must be postmarked by Oct. 3.

More information on the reimbursement program — including qualifying details, instructions on how and where to file a claim, and a copy of the requisite claims form — is available at [www.jagcnet.army.mil](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil).

Follow the link to the "Protective Gear Reimbursement Program." Soldiers also may contact Maj. Paul Cucuzzella at the Claims Service at 301-677-7009, ext. 431, or by e-mail at [paul.cucuzzella@emhl.ftmeade.army.mil](mailto:paul.cucuzzella@emhl.ftmeade.army.mil).

### USAREUR Soldier rolls into first place at BOSS car show



U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr BOSS president Spc. Dawn Andreli presents Staff Sgt. James Jarvin of Mannheim with the trophy for Best of Show at the 4th Annual BOSS Car Show in Vilseck Aug. 19. Jarvin's 2003 Navigator also took 1st place Exterior, 1st place Interior, and 2nd place Sound Off.

*Photos by Sue Bluhm*



### SCHOOL NEWS

## Garrison teachers welcomed 'home'

Story and photo by **JODI WARD**

*Staff writer*

A warm "welcome back" was extended to U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr school teachers during a ceremony and reception held in their honor at Vilseck's Dagestein Castle Aug. 23.

"The teachers have had a busy summer," said "School" Steve Vojtecky, the garrison school liaison officer. "It's not like they're off all summer. They spend the summer earning credits and certifications.

"We just want to thank them for all they've been doing and will do this school year. We want them to know how much we appreciate them educating our children," he said.

Many new and returning teachers were in attendance despite working a full day to prepare for the new school year. Old and new friends mingled and enjoyed food, drink, and words of encouragement and appreciation from USAG G Commander Col. Brian Boyle.

Boyle, who graduated from South Korea's Seoul American High School in 1979, credited much of his success at West Point to his DoDDS education, and one tough chemistry teacher in particular.

"You have great respect from me," he said. "I applaud your efforts."

After a brief historical account of Dagestein, Vilseck Mayor Hans-Martin Schertl lauded the teachers.

"It's great that you could come together, here at the castle," he said. "The new people could meet the people who have been here for a while, chat a little bit, exchange ideas, and get prepared for the upcoming school year. I wish you a great stay in our town and the region."

Schertl, who has rented an apartment to a DoDDS-E teacher for a decade, said he is pleased with the good relations that Germans and Americans share in the garrison area.

Schertl presented the schools principals with a token of his appreciation, after which the principals presented Schertl with their schools' sweatshirts.

One of the evening's topics was the many

See **VILSECK** Page 16



New teachers (from left) Kari Fokken, and Kara Burns bond with Jill Timmerwilke and Mandy Riggan during a reception in honor of garrison teachers at Vilseck's Dagestein Castle Aug. 23.



# Q&A

## What kind of weather do you predict for 2006?



**Al Hasty**  
"I hope for a golden October. However, I will accept whatever comes."



**Pfc. Anthony Pape**  
"I think that it will remain rainy and cloudy... There will be snow in a few weeks."



**Broderick Allen**  
"There will be more precipitation throughout the summer and fall. A cold winter will follow."



**Geunji Kim**  
"Cold and rainy with snow in the winter."



**Jessica Bowser**  
"It's going to be freezing and going to snow by October."



**Kat Watson**  
"Same as it has been for the past couple of years, but I hope it gets nice for when my mother visits (next week)."



**Capt. Mike Cotovsky**  
"I think that we are in for a mild winter."



**Staff Sgt. William Schmidt**  
"The winter is going to be very cold and harsh. Year after year, it has gotten colder."

# Opinion & Editorial

## Command Message

# Never underestimate the impact of your lifestyle on neighbors

It sure seems like winter has started early this year.

A quick review of the blotters reveals an unwelcome increase in people losing control of their vehicles and damaging their cars, road sign posts, and other people's vehicles. Think before you drive, and when in doubt slow down.

### Children and pets

Many of you who have been in Germany for a while have seen the commercials on TV that lead with "Do you know what your (children/ pet) does when you are gone? Well your neighbors do."

And in the background is either a child bouncing a ball against a wall or pets barking nonstop. The not-so-subtle message is that parents and pet owners either don't know or don't care how their families and pets impact the community.

Because military families share close living spaces, especially those in duplexes and stairwell apartments, it's no secret that our lifestyle have a great impact on our neighbors.

So what can you do? With respect to pets, the first thing is to inform (in a non-confrontational manner) your neighbor of the noise (they really may not know it is an issue),



and see if a solution can be arranged.

If that does not work, the next step is to notify the Grafenwoehr community leadership – generally the military police. The MPs will work to solve the problem, and if we still can't resolve it, the offending owner may forfeit their right to live in government controlled quarters. Of course we hope that does not happen but are prepared to follow this course of action if needed.

With respect to children, if you see them doing something that is clearly wrong, make a correction. Walking across the top of gazebos, hanging from gutters; banging balls against walls are all just not respectful of the people who live in your area. By not making a correction (in a polite and respectful manner), you have established a new and less than satisfactory standard.

### New school year

The school year has officially started. We've had some challenges with some missed bus pickups and a larger than average number of children who needed to register on Day One, but overall things have been better than expected.

I ask everyone to continue to be aware of children moving to and from school, and watch your speed so we can avoid a tragic accident. As I stated in the last column, we have not received every family in the community yet, and the last of them may not

arrive until October.

Again, please be flexible as we adjust the size of our schools, student-teacher ratios, and bus routes in the coming months.

With respect to the new middle school, I ask that each of us take particular care at the beginning and end of the school day.

Because the community mail room is next to the bus pickup area, we have the potential for dangerous situations as children exit their buses. I highly encourage motorists to *not* choose their mail pickup or bank visits during the time when busses are picking up and dropping off students. This will better allow our buses to load students swiftly and safely.

### CFC

The Combined Federal Campaign training program has just begun. Other than Army Emergency Relief, the CFC is the only authorized Army solicitation of donations.

Most of you know the great programs that CFC contributes to. Your unit representatives should be contacting you soon, and I ask you to consider giving generously to the available programs.

See **LOW MILITARY** Page 3

*Col. Brian T. Boyle  
Commander, U.S. Army  
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

### Guest Commentary

## Who still reads papers, anyway?

By **ROGER TEEL**

One of the pioneers of Army public affairs recently reported that he was heading to pasture.

Gary G. Beylickjian, a retired sergeant major, a veteran of the Korean War and Vietnam, and a charter member of the Army Public Affairs' Hall of Fame, announced this summer he was resigning from his post as the dean of Army newspapers.

In an Army career that spanned more than 50 years, he was the one tuning fork that newspaper editors and Army journalists could always rely on. Former chief of Army public affairs Maj. Gen. Robert Solomon once said Beylickjian had "single-handedly changed the face of Army newspapers."

Beylickjian created and produced a monthly professional journal called Post-30 expressly for Army print journalists. In it he addressed every aspect of Army journalism, from common grammatical errors and poorly worded headlines to instilling professional and ethical values and inspiring Army writers to address tough, contemporary issues. His aim was always to help Soldier/journalists better communicate with their readers.

"Always think of the reader first," Beylickjian would say. He also knew the importance of running a Soldier's picture; the morale boost it provided the individual and the credibility it added to the publication.

Beylickjian informally rated Army newspapers in Post-30, and gave by-name recognition to journalists who deserved it. He also sent newspaper critiques directly to editors in the field. I received my first in 1974, when Beylickjian was still on active duty and I was a fledgling, wet-behind-the-ears Army journalist (he would chastise me for using such a clichéd expression). He would also phone editors and give them an earful of unsolicited advice whenever he had something to say.

While Beylickjian's retirement may seem like "no news" for many readers, what you don't know is that today's Army journalists would not be where they are without having

See **ARMY NEWSPAPERS** Page 3

## Military Spouses

# Why not give up the gluestick if it will keep us any safer?



**JACEY ECKHART**  
*On the Homefront*

No one has taken a lipstick away from me since the sixth grade. Back then Sister Jeannette Nadeau told me that I was not only too young for lipstick, but that tube just wasn't my color.

The airport security chick hovering over the gate agent didn't feel quite the same way. "No gels. No liquids," she said, in the same tone of voice every airport official was using the day after the terrorist attacks in London were averted.

"Not even my gluestick? It's kind of a dry gluestick. I'm gonna need my gluestick."

"Put it in your checked bag or I will keep it," she snapped.

I didn't argue with her. No one on my flight was about to argue with her. Instead we crouched over our purses and shuffled through our briefcases for every stray gelatinous object. Then we lined up at the gate and watched the TV guys demonstrate how the ingredients for a bomb could be assembled in the restroom of the plane. How the detonator could be disguised as a cell phone. How the terrorist could return to the most advantageous seat and blow up himself and the plane at will. Then we watched talking heads yak about the death toll among our service members in Iraq.

Suddenly I was surrounded by people who wanted to talk. All day I had new friends at the airport who wanted to talk about Big Gulp cups and shampoo and water bottles.

"You know, my husband e-mailed that I shouldn't really be going to Boston this weekend," said a Marine wife. "He kept asking me 'What if something happens to you? What would I do?' As if he wasn't flying over Iraq every single day."

I let the conversations go on around me all day, took part in them even. I was glad talk and talk and talk and not let myself think about the details of the plot outlined in the paper.

Maybe everyone was. because I didn't hear one person talk about the terrorists. No one remarked on the complexity and resourcefulness of the plan. No one was at all concerned over the level of surveillance that had to be taking place in London to catch that group. No one mentioned luck.

Instead we spent our time hoping out loud that they would confiscate Gameboys next and the obnoxious children who play them with the sound on. We noted that 9/11 meant that we didn't suffer airline food anymore so maybe this London thing would mean that we wouldn't fight for room in the overhead compartments. We made a continual listing of what had been thrown away, tucked away, done without.

"They took my Chapstick," a guy with a mustache moaned. "What could I possibly do with a Chapstick? A Chapstick is the Stay-Puft Marshmallow man of cosmetics. A Chapstick couldn't hurt anybody."

We all nodded, glad to mock the bureaucracy. When our plane arrived (late) and departed (later), I dug in my carryon for a pen and a notebook. Two days ago I dug in this same bag and pulled out a pair of scissors during the flight without even thinking about it. I cut out a recipe from a magazine. No one said a thing.

Now I'm giving up my gluestick. I am glad to give up my gluestick. I'd be gladder still if it actually meant we were any safer. I can't imagine the billions of dollars that would have to be spent to make air travel 100 percent safe.

I can't imagine the law enforcement measures that would have to be created to keep up with the ingenuity of such a smart and motivated enemy. It's much, much easier to focus on the loser movie and having my seat returned to the upright position.

A military wife for 19 years, Jacey Eckhart is a syndicated columnist from CinCHouse.com ([www.CinCHouse.com](http://www.CinCHouse.com)) and author of "The Homefront Club" (Naval Institute Press 2004).

## Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr • Hohenfels • Vilseck

Producer: **MILCOM Advertising Agency**  
Roswitha Lehner  
Zeilaeckerstrasse 35 • 92637 Weiden • Telefax 0961-67050-32  
Internet: **www.milcom.de**

Bavarian News is an unofficial biweekly publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial views are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. The paper is an offset publication prepared and edited by the U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office. Bavarian News is printed by Werbeagentur und Verlag Roswitha Lehner and distributed every other Wednesday. Circulation is 6,000 copies. Submissions are welcome. Send letters to the editor and commentaries to PAO, Unit 28130, Attn: Bavarian News, APO AE 09114, or e-mail them to [usagnews@graf.eur.army.mil](mailto:usagnews@graf.eur.army.mil). Telephone the Bavarian News at 475-7113 or fax to 475-7935 with story ideas and events.



**USAG G Commander**  
Col. Brian Boyle

**USAG G Acting Public Affairs Officer**  
Nick D'Amario (475-6417)

**Bavarian News Editor**  
Adriane Foss (475-7113)

**Grafenwoehr Correspondent**  
Casey Thomas (475-1600)

**Vilseck Correspondent**  
Jodi Ward (475-1600)

**Hohenfels Correspondent**  
Alice Adler (475-1600)

**Food & Culture Columnist**  
Martina Bias (475-1600)



# JMRC forges on with transformation

## Center continuing to improve joint training capabilities

by GERRY ARBIOS

USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

The Joint Multinational Readiness Center's transformation has been more than just a name change.

Along with the Army's two other "dirt" combat training centers at Fort Irwin, Calif., and Fort Polk, La., the JMRC continues to be one of the Army's feature tactical training programs for brigade combat teams and battalion task forces.

JMRC leaders constantly strive to provide the best possible training it can to Soldiers, leaders, and units.

### Multinational training

This now includes not only Army forces, but also the U.S. Navy and Marines, the U.S. Air Force, as well as multinational units from across western and eastern Europe.

Joint force training is an important part of the DoD's training transformation plan, and JMRC will be one of the major training centers of expertise in the European Command theater.

Over the past few months, the JMRC Operations Group has undergone self-assessment of current and required capabilities to improve its ability to conduct joint training in accordance with joint doctrine.

This assessment is part of the U.S. Joint Forces Command's Joint National Training Capability program. The result of this process at JMRC will be the accreditation and certification of selected joint tasks and the overall enhancement of its training capabilities.

With the assistance of the Joint War Fighting Center, the JMRC completed its JNTC process Aug. 10. During the JWFC on-site visit at

Hohenfels, the team analyzed joint training capabilities at the JMRC during eight specific joint tasks.

### Taking an honest look

The team used the tasks as the baseline for analysis, assessing what the JMRC can provide now and where they could improve.

The outcome was a conditional accreditation and certification with the identification of 46 shortfalls and enhancements required to fully meet the joint task requirements.

"This accreditation clearly gives us a certificate we can hang on the wall that will facilitate our ability to provide doctrinal joint training to U.S. joint forces," said Steve Hebert, the lead planner for the Operations Group team.

Conditional accreditation translates to the JMRC program being "capable of providing the training audience an adequate, realistic joint training environment, but will require assistance to improve to consistently meet the criteria for all elements of joint context," said Hebert, and it helps pave the way for more capabilities and resources at JMRC.

When the process started in May, 20 tasks were originally looked at. Of the 20, eight were nominated for the JWFC team's review.

### Room for improvement

One area where training could be enhanced dealt with the configuration and change management process. The team concluded that the process could be enhanced by more formal documentation, and JNTC hopes to soon have a system in place that will assist this process.

That is what Lt. Col. Jack Bone, Operations Group coordinator for the accreditation process,



Photo by Norbert Wittl

JNTC Accreditation Tiger Team member Maj. Eric Timmerman (center) responds to questions from the JNTC review team during their site visit.

says is one of the advantages of the self-assessment and accreditation process – help in resourcing a joint program with new systems or personnel.

### Center of choice

With the accreditation feather in its cap, JMRC is moving forward to make itself the center of choice for joint training for the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force in EUCOM and beyond. A key enhanced training capabilities JMRC provides joint forces is training across the full spectrum of conflict through the use of live virtual-constructive capabilities.

These capabilities allow units to

simultaneously conduct training in the same scenario using live training exercises, integrating participants in virtual trainers and constructive computer simulations.

With the ever-changing needs of DoD, learning to train and operate jointly strengthens the effectiveness of the military. Col. Tom Vandal, Commander, Operations Group JMRC, sees the conditional accreditation as a definite springboard for bigger and better things.

"We see this as a beginning of a lot more joint training," said Vandal, "and part of the process is developing our hardware and systems to meet joint training requirements."

## Opinion-Editorial *continued*

# Task force to address survey shortcomings

In February I encouraged you to participate in a survey that was being conducted to measure force well-being and determine your satisfaction or dissatisfaction with programs, facilities, services, and other aspects of living in the Army in Europe.



The overall survey results indicate satisfaction with support services and the readiness of our families to sustain themselves well during deployments and transformation.

Among the most highly rated categories were Army ethos, pay, welfare, and recreation.

Areas that indicated a need for improvement were access to healthcare, home-finding services, the condition of our barracks, and concerns over substance abuse in our military communities.

To help address your concerns, we are putting together a task force of key stakeholders to concentrate on areas needing improvement.

In addition, we plan to conduct another well-being survey in 2007. I encourage you to participate in that survey as well.

Doing so will enable you to make your voices heard once again. The dates for that survey have not yet been determined, but will

be announced throughout the Army in Europe as we get closer to the survey period.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who took time to respond to the survey. I also want to thank those who helped administer the survey.

Your participation provided valuable feedback to me and my staff and will help us concentrate our efforts on ensuring the readiness and well-being of our Soldiers, civilians, and families.

*Gen. David McKiernan  
Commander,  
U.S. Army Europe*

# Low military voting turnout disheartening

Continued From Page 2

### Voting

The senior leadership of the Army has placed increased emphasis on the voting process.

Frankly, it is a little disheartening for the military to help ensure safe voting in troubled states (Afghanistan and Iraq) and have so few military members and their families participate in our own elections.

The senior garrison voting assistance officer is Sieglinde Schedl and her deputy is

Master Sgt. Cardonna. All units should have their own voting assistance officers, but if you cannot contact them, call Schedl (475-6753) and she will assist you.

The following information will help ensure your vote is counted:

■ Voters may complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA Standard Form 76) or comply with the ballot request procedures enacted by the state in which they vote.

■ The FPCA standard Form 76, or other request, should be mailed as soon as possible.

■ Complete ballots must be in the mail to

the United States by Oct. 14 for overseas voters. Personnel who have not received their state ballot by Oct. 14 should complete the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB Stand Form 186).

■ The FPCA and FWAB are available online at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/forms.html>

It great to see the children back in school and excited about learning.

Let's have a great academic year and, as always, the garrison staff works to make this the best place to live and serve in Europe.

# Army newspapers a living, breathing info source

Continued From Page 2

had his tutelage, mentorship and counsel. Every Soldier and civilian who's spent more than 20 minutes in Army public affairs has been touched by the profound dedication and professionalism of Gary Beylickjian. He will be sorely missed by many of us.

I mention this because my newspaper, The Point, is apparently on its last legs. The Army's transformation is realigning communities in Europe and the Bavarian News, published by USAG Grafenwoehr, will soon serve readers in Ansbach, Illesheim, Schweinfurt and Bamberg.

As I look at the plaques and awards The Point newspaper has earned over the years, I sense the ghosts of journalists who have come and gone. Many of them still stay in



Beylickjian

touch by reading The Point online.

And there's the rub — the real enemy of newspapers — the Internet. Commercial newspapers are financially challenged because they don't sell nearly as many copies as they once did, and most have moved on to electronic publications.

With so much information available in cyberspace, why do we continue to publish community newspapers?

There are several viable reasons. First, a freshly printed newspaper is alive. It is vibrant

with new material. Second, you never know what's in a newspaper until you look inside. And, third, you can take it wherever you go, like home to share with your family and friends.

The point I'm making, and if I learned anything from my longtime association with Gary Beylickjian, is that Army newspapers are living, breathing documents that invigorate and entertain readers with news and features that they need and want.

Roger Teel is editor of The Point. A long-time public affairs practitioner, he is a retired Army master sergeant, a former Defense Information School journalism instructor and recipient of the 1999 Moss-Holland Award as the Department of the Army's Civilian Journalist of the Year.

# Army to begin utility billing for privatized housing

Army News Service

Some families living in privatized housing on Army installations became responsible for their utility consumption beginning Friday.

Residential Communities Initiatives began billing for electricity at five installations where a yearlong mock billing program was recently completed.

The mock billing program established a baseline for electricity consumption through consumption patterns, housing type and size.

Residents who use less energy than what was established by their baseline will earn a rebate or credit. Those who exceed their baseline will be required to pay the difference.

Residents should see their first bill on or around Oct. 1.

The installations where billing began are: Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Meade, Md.; Fort Lewis, Wash.; and Fort Campbell, Ky.

Only those residents living in new and fully renovated houses will receive energy bills.

"These homes feature Energy Star appliances, as well as additional insulation and energy-saving windows," said Ivan Bolden, RCI Assistant for Policy and Program manager. "Energy Star is the housing industry's highest energy-saving rating."

"The majority of old homes are not individually metered so it would be difficult to gauge energy consumption," he said. "But once they are fully renovated, they will be included in the billing program."

Congress passed the Military Housing Privatization Initiative in 1996, allowing the services to privatize family housing. Guidance published by the Office of the Secretary of Defense in 1998 required service members in privatized housing to be responsible for the utilities they consumed.

The billing program was established by the Department of Defense to conserve energy and track energy usage. Eventually all military branches will require residents living in privatized housing to be responsible for their energy use.

Under the RCI program, more than 72,000 family housing units at 33 Army installations have been turned over to private developers. The companies manage the housing and collect rent through Soldiers' Basic Allowance for Housing.

In return, the companies provide property management services, renovate existing homes and build new housing.



# School lunch menus get facelift

by MIKE SITRIN  
AAFES-Kaiserslautern

Students will see some changes to the school lunch menu and a la carte lines this year. Many of these changes are based on comments received from our student customers and parents. Others are to bring the school feeding program into compliance with the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004. "This Congressionally mandated program requires all school districts with a federally-funded school meals program to develop and implement wellness policies that address nutrition and physical activity by the start of the 2006/2007 school year," said AAFES KMC Exchange Restaurant Manger Michael Sitrin. The program encompasses not only the school meal program, but all food available on campus including vending, fundraising, school

stores and classrooms. "Students will continue to see some of the more popular menu items, however some of the old standbys are being replaced with new lower fat, whole grain varieties," said Sitrin. Other changes include more variety, more whole grains, fewer desserts, "right sized" portions, and the elimination of sugary beverages. On the a la carte line, some of the changes include: ■ Pizza will be made with whole wheat crust, approximately half the size previously sold. The price has been decreased accordingly. ■ French fries will be a baked product instead of deep-fried. Cheese sauce and chili toppings will still be available. ■ All high fat content chips will no longer be available. They have been replaced with 1.5 oz baked chips.

■ Sugary beverages have been eliminated, but a variety of juices, Gatorade, and bottled water will be sold. Student will also be offered new entrees, vegetables, and side dishes this year. These include: **Entrees** Pork & Vegetable Eggrolls Chicken Drumsticks Chicken/Cheese Quesadilla BBQ Pork Riblets Cheese/Pepperoni Pizza (wheat crust) Chicken Parmesan Shredded Turkey and Gravy Whole Grain Chicken Corn Dog Tuna Melt Ham & Cheese Sandwich Breakfast for Lunch (Scrambled eggs, French Toast)

**Vegetables & Sides** Chicken Flavored Rice Mixed Vegetables Macaroni & Cheese Vegetarian Refried Beans Sweet Potatoes Plain Potato Wedges Buttered Noodles Vanilla Pudding Baked Cinnamon Apples Ice Cream Cups, 4 oz Fresh Cut Fruits For complete menu schedule or program and nutrition information, visit the Web site at [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com) and click on the [Your BX/PX](#) button. For more information on the School Meal Program, call DSN 489-6112 or CIV 0631-3541232.

# Make your military health benefit work for you

### TRICARE Europe

If you are new to the European theater or have recently had a change in your family, such as a move or a new baby, take the time to make sure your military health benefits are up to date. Here are four simple steps you can take to ensure easy access to health care when you need it: **Verify Eligibility** The first thing to do is make sure the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, better known as DEERS, has complete and current information about you and your family. DEERS is used to determine your eligibility for TRICARE, so it is essential to keep this information up to date. For more information about how and when to update DEERS, visit [www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/) or contact your local TRICARE Service Center

at Grafenwoehr, CIV 09641-83-8589 (DSN 475-8589) or Vilseck, CIV 09662-83-2026 (DSN 476-2026), or visit [www.europe.tricare.osd.mil/benefit/tsclist.asp](http://www.europe.tricare.osd.mil/benefit/tsclist.asp) to find a local phone number. **Check Your Coverage** Your TRICARE Service Center can also verify that you and your family members are enrolled in the TRICARE program that best meets your needs. For most active-duty families, TRICARE Prime is the best option, since it provides priority access to the

military treatment facility and low costs. However, if you are willing to pay extra for the freedom to choose your host-nation provider, TRICARE Standard may be for you. You should also check to see that you have the dental coverage you need. Military dental facilities provide care to family members on a space-available basis, so for many families, the TRICARE Dental Program is an excellent option. For a small monthly premium of \$10.51 for one family member and \$26.27 for multiple family members,

the program offers coverage for a wide variety of dental care, including limited coverage for orthodontics and dental implants. For details, visit [www.tricaredentalprogram.com](http://www.tricaredentalprogram.com). **Know How to Get Care** It's important that you and your family members know what to do when you need care. Post the boxed telephone numbers (below) on or near your telephones at home. If you are planning to travel in Europe or to the States, you should contact your local TRICARE Service Center first for important information

about getting care while traveling. **Get Help When You Need It** Your first stop for most questions about your military health benefit is your local TRICARE Service Center. The staff can help you update your enrollment, file claims for host-nation care, and more. If you or a family member is admitted to a host-nation hospital, they can also connect you with a patient liaison, who can help bridge the language and culture barriers you may encounter. For general information about your local military treatment facility, call CIV 09641-83-7152/8393 (DSN 475-7152/ 8393) for Grafenwoehr or CIV 09662-83-2936/ 2804 (DSN 476-2936/ 2804) for Vilseck. For information about TRICARE in Europe, visit [www.europe.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.europe.tricare.osd.mil). To get general TRICARE information, such as what is and is not covered, visit [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil).

	Grafenwoehr	Vilseck
On-Base Emergency	114 or 475-8319	476-2890/ 2490
Off-Base Emergency	09641-83-114 / 83-8319	09662-83-8290 or 83-2490
Nearest 24/7	Klinikum Weiden 0961-3030	(Provides full emergency services)
Emergency Room	Krankenhaus Eschenbach 09645-850 (Gynecology, general surgery and internal medicine emergency services ONLY)	Amberg – St. Marien Klinikum 09621-380
	09641-83-7152/ 8393	Sulzbach-Rosenberg 09661-5200
Routine Care Appointments		St. Anna Krankenhaus 09661-5200
Nurse Advice Line (talk to a registered nurse, 24/7):	0800-825-1600	09662-83-2936/ 2804

Back to School View

Photo by Jodi Ward

Friends Zahiyia Jones (left), 6, and Shaliyah, 7, meet again at Vilseck Elementary School.

Photo by Casey Thomas

Parents escorting their children to school was a common sight Aug. 28, the first day of the new school year for U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr students.

Photo by Jodi Ward

Ms. Maitner's helper leads the way at Vilseck Elementary school.

Photo by Casey Thomas

Misty weather didn't keep Grafenwoehr Elementary teachers away from the bus dropoff.

Photo by Casey Thomas

Grafenwoehr Middle School students met in the gym for a briefing before touring the school.

Photo by Jodi Ward

Siblings James, 6, and Cierra Miller, 8, wait for the bell at Vilseck Elementary School.



# Working dogs more than man's best friend

Story and photos by JODI WARD

Staff writer

You may not know their names or see them around post very often, but like the Soldiers stationed at Grafenwoehr and Vilseck, they are doing their part to serve and protect.

Their names are Bobby, Breston, Tom, Rocky, Nero, Aufer and Pocket, and they are our resident military working dogs.

With an acute sense of smell—10 times that of a human's—and controlled aggression that would put fear into any assailant, military working dogs are an unparalleled asset to today's military.

**The journey from simple canine** to valued member of the U.S. Armed Forces begins in the southwestern U.S.

Each year the 341st Training Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, trains nearly 500 military working dogs.

"Here they become the highly skilled canine sentries and substance detectors that will work along side members of each branch of service, whether in support of the war on terror or force protection on military installations," said Army Col. David Rolfe, director of the Defense Department's Military Working Dog Program at Lackland Air Force Base.

During the 120-day program the dogs are taught basic obedience, how to attack, and substance detection (narcotics or explosives).

Once the dogs arrive at their duty station, they continue to hone their skills during daily training in obedience, attack training called "out and guard," and detection.

"The dogs are duel trained," said Bobby's handler Sgt. Kevin Baker of the 554<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company. "They are trained for detection of either narcotics or explosives, and then they are also trained on what we call 'patrol training.'"

**Typical detection training** begins with the dog handler checking out narcotics or explosives training aids. The handlers then plant the training aids in a designated area, where their canine sidekick must find as many of the hidden devices as possible.

Hohenfels' kennel master SFC William McEnaney, also with the 554<sup>th</sup> MP Co., said working with the dogs is an eye-opening experience.

"We look for the dog's change of behavior (to know when they detect something) and then the dog will give a passive response, they will



**Military working dog Bobby is praised by his handler, Sgt. Kevin Baker of the 544th MP company, after successfully completing the obstacle course.**

sit or lay down," said McEnaney. "I'm amazed at the fact that our (Patrol Explosive Detection Dog) can detect over 11 different explosive scents."

**Not just any dog** is chosen to become a military working dog. German shepherds and Belgian Malinois are the breeds of choice. These particular breeds are highly intelligent, display a controlled aggression, and are extremely loyal and athletic, explained McEnaney.

They can be used for "detection purposes along with their patrol capabilities, such as the ability to attack and hold assailants, search buildings, and scout," he said.

"German shepherds and Belgian Malinois are known for their aggression, agreed Baker. "You don't want to use a poodle or cocker spaniel. If you stomped your foot, they'd run away," said Baker.

The services that military working dogs perform at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr and for the armed forces all over the world are

not new. The fierce aggression, high intelligence, and keen senses of man's best friend have been used throughout history in times of war.

The first recorded use of dogs by the U.S. military dates back to the Seminole War of 1835. They were used, mainly, as pack dogs during the Revolutionary War.

Throughout the Civil War, dogs were used as messengers, guards, and unit mascots. In World War II, the U.S. deployed more than 10,000 military working dogs to hostile areas where they served mainly as sentries, said Rolfe.

**Today, there are approximately 200 military working dogs** deployed with their handlers to Afghanistan and Iraq.

While serving in hostile areas, they assist in base force protection, search operations for narcotics and weapons caches, securing checkpoints and roadblocks, and much more, said McEnaney.

Rex, one of Grafenwoehr's working dog, is currently deployed to Iraq with his handler, 554<sup>th</sup>



**Bobby tops an A-frame during training at Grafenwoehr. He has worked with his handler for two years.**



**Bobby, who deployed to Iraq last year, hurdles an obstacle during training.**

MP Sgt. Joseph Dickenson.

Combat stressors tend to bond dogs and their handlers much closer than that of your average pet and pet owner. These service members spend more time with their dogs than they do with their friends and family, explained Rolfe.

"Imagine training everyday, working together everyday, deploying together, you form a very strong bond," said McEnaney. "Some handlers have such a strong bond that they volunteer to extend in Europe, just so they can continue working their (military working dog) and possibly adopt him or her when the time comes."

Baker has been working with working dog Bobby for nearly two years and returned from a seven-month deployment to Iraq earlier this year.

**"A deployment really creates a bond** between a dog and handler because you have six to eight months of just you and him. On deployment, I spent 24 hours a day with my dog."

# Wounded warrior surfs again despite amputation

Story and photo by  
**MIKE DULEVITZ**

Brooke Army Medical Center

For one wounded warrior, the thought of never being able to surf again haunted him after losing his left leg above the knee in Iraq to a vehicle-borne bomb.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Derek McGinnis, who grew up near Freemont, Calif., has loved the water and the beach for as long as he can remember.

Taking up skim-boarding at age 8, his zeal for riding the waves led him to surfing as a teenager. Once he tried it, he was hooked. He had found his niche.

"Surfing was a way for me to do what I love — being in the water, getting away from it all," McGinnis said. "When you are out there on the water and riding the waves, you feel an immense feeling of freedom and peace."

McGinnis suffered intense trauma from the explosion the day he was injured, and has been battling back at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. A never-say-die spirit, coupled with the very best medical care available, brought him back to a remarkable state of mental and physical fitness.

An avid sportsman, McGinnis now enjoys running, golfing, and water sports. Still, surfing was on his dream sheet of things he still wanted to try as an amputee.

"After such a long road to recovery, running was a pinnacle for me, but being able to surf again was my dream," he said.

McGinnis talked with Janis Roznowski, the founder and executive director of Operation Comfort, an Austin-based nonprofit organization dedicated to the

betterment of life for wounded servicemembers and veterans.

I asked Janis if there might be a surfing trip on the horizon, and she told me that she would check into it," McGinnis said.

Roznowski set out to help make McGinnis' surfing dream a reality. "These veterans have given so much for us," Roznowski said. "I couldn't think of a better way to lift their spirits and help them experience what is still possible."

McGinnis looked up amputee surfing in publications and on the

Internet. His search led him to Rodney Roller in Pismo Beach, Calif.

Roller is an amputee and a surfing champion, who organized a successful surf clinic for civilian amputees in 2004.

He was quick to jump on board for the wounded warriors, enthusiastically beginning the coordination to make the BAMC surf trip a reality.

"I feel so humbled by their service and their sacrifice," said Roller. "I want to help these injured veterans realize that there is life after

disability."

When the arrangements had all been made, 13 wounded warriors were taken to Pismo Beach to learn surfing. The trip was a hit for them all.

"This is something I have wanted to do ever since I was 13 years old, and now I am going to get to do it," said Army Sgt. Timothy Brumley, a below-the-knee amputee.

Prior to the trip, Brumley likened his trip anticipation to that of a child at Christmas, just waiting for the chance to open his presents.



**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Derek McGinnis hits the waves again in Pismo Beach, Calif. McGinnis and 12 other wounded warriors from Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, took part in the six-day event Aug. 15-20. McGinnis lost his leg in a bomb blast in Iraq.**

Christmas came again in August this year!" said Brumley, grinning from ear to ear.

Besides surfing, the group enjoyed golfing, outrigger kayaking and canoeing.

Mark Heniser, a BAMC physical therapist who accompanied the troops on the trip to provide medical and prosthetic support, was not surprised when they learned to surf in such a short amount of time.

What did surprise Heniser was the community support and organization that he saw in Pismo Beach.

"I knew our guys and gals could meet any physical challenges put before them, because we challenge them more and more each and everyday in the rehab arena," Heniser said.

"They not only meet those expectations, they exceed them," he said.

The weeklong surfing clinic and community activities were the result of the efforts of a coalition formed by Operation Comfort; the Wood River Ability Program from Sun Valley, Idaho; and its newest member, the Amputee Surfers Alliance based in Pismo Beach.

Their efforts, coupled with the generosity and support of the local Pismo Beach community, made the event a success.

"This is one small way we found to say a heartfelt thank you to our men and women who serve this great country, not only in peacetime, but at war as well," said Dean Mignola, the event public relations officer.

Also partnering in the event were Billabong USA, a sportswear and casual clothing manufacturer, and Pancho's Surf Shop, a local Pismo Beach surfing retailer.

Billabong provided instructors, wetsuits, and boards for the group.



# USAREUR names Soldier, NCO of Year

Story and photo by ARTHUR MCQUEEN  
USAREUR Public Affairs

U.S. Army, Europe named its top Soldier and noncommissioned officer during ceremonies in Heidelberg Aug. 25.

Spc. John Emmett, 21st Troop Support Battalion, Kaiserslautern, and Sgt. Delroy Barnett, 123rd Main Support Battalion, Dexheim, earned their respective titles by winning the 2006 USAREUR Soldier and Noncommissioned of the Year Competition.

The announcement received thunderous applause from 300 supporters gathered at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion during a banquet honoring all of the competitors.

Gen. David McKiernan, USAREUR commanding general, said he was honored to participate in ceremonies recognizing the Soldiers. He reminded the winners that their task was just starting.

"You now have an even greater responsibility to live the Army values, embody the Warrior Ethos and instill these values in the Soldiers placed under you," he said.

"As we continue the Global War on Terrorism, it is you we look to, to continue the

fight," McKiernan added.

The general and USAREUR Command Sgt. Major Iuniasolua Savusa presented Emmett and Barnett with Army Commendation Medals as part of the ceremony.

Held in Germany's Grafenwoehr Training Area Aug. 6-10, the closely contested competition gave the Soldiers ample chances to test their mettle in various events, such as marksmanship, a 15-kilometer foot march in full combat gear, first aid and battlefield maneuvering.



Barnett

While doing so, competitors faced rain, darkness, realistically simulated casualties and a board of senior sergeants major.

"Leadership is hard to define," said McKiernan, "but easy to recognize. These Soldiers have accepted the challenge and dedicated themselves to excellence."

Emmett and Barnett will represent USAREUR at the Army SOY/NCOY competition being held Oct. 1-6 at Fort Lee, Va., with winners being announced Oct. 10 at the Association of the U.S. Army conference in Washington, D.C.

Also competing for NCO of the Year was Sgt. Muhammadun Abdallah, 4th Infantry Regiment, Hohenfels, Germany.



U.S. Army, Europe Command Sgt. Major Iuniasolua Savusa, left, and Gen. David McKiernan, USAREUR commanding general, present Spc. John Emmett an engraved crystal award for winning USAREUR Soldier of the Year.

*"We are not to throw away those things which can benefit our neighbor. Goods are called good because they can be used for good: they are instruments for good, in the hands of those who use them properly."*

-- Clement of Alexandria - 14<sup>th</sup> century

## Garrison thrift shops offer unique bargains

Story and photos by  
JANUARY-JILL OGOY

Contributing writer

Are you in for some creative shopping? Do you need to shop smart on a tight budget? Is rummaging for rock-bottom deals something you might enjoy? If so, your garrison thrift store has something for you.

Whether you plan to buy, sell, or donate, the Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, and Hohenfels thrift stores are the place to visit. Customers can find a plethora of gently used and like-new items to choose from.

The wide selection includes:

- clothing, books, and toys,
- curtains, furniture, and kitchen supplies,
- and fishing poles, curtains, and electronics.

And for the die-hard thrift shopper, there is a host of interesting bric-a-brac such as candle holders, vases, dining sets, wooden stick horses, and VCR packages.

Regardless of what you're looking for or what you find, the stores offer low-cost items and great bargains where customers are sure to get their money's worth.

For those hoping to recover money invested in items they no longer want, the thrift stores are an ideal place to consign.

For PCSing families, consignment is an ideal way to lighten the luggage load and get cash for items they no longer want or need, particularly 220-volt appliances that do not work in the United States.

Any U.S. ID cardholder age 18 or older can consign items at any of the garrison stores. Up to 16 items can be consigned per day without PCS orders. With PCS orders, up to 32 items

can be consigned per day. Only one account per family can be opened.

Items generally stay in consignment for 60 days. In Grafenwoehr and Vilseck, if the item has not been purchased after the two-month period, it becomes the property of the thrift store.

In Hohenfels however, a 60-day extension may be requested, after which the items will become the property of the thrift shop.

The thrift shop retains 25 percent of the selling price. Items can be withdrawn during the consignment period by the owners for a fee of 10 percent of the consigned price in Grafenwoehr and Vilseck.

Withdrawal fees do not apply at the Hohenfels store. A consignor may also opt to reduce prices on their items as desired.

Money for sold items will be paid to consignors the following month.

For those who may leave the community before their items are sold, consignors can leave a self-addressed stamped envelope and payments will be mailed to them.

Community volunteers are behind the success of each of the garrison's thrift stores.

To continue this success, each of the thrift stores are always looking for more volunteers.

At the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck stores, volunteers are offered additional discount on thrift store items and the perk of preferential claim on items as they come in to the store.

At the Hohenfels store, a portion of child care costs are paid to its volunteers, plus they

receive a half-price discount on thrift store items purchased on work days.

Anyone who is interested in joining can contact the thrift stores directly, or register with your local Army Community Service so that the volunteer hours can be recorded.

The thrift stores are a continual source of fundraising, with all profits going to the respective spouses clubs at Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, and Hohenfels.

In turn, the clubs funnel the profits back to the community through grants to various organizations such as the Girl Scouts

and Boys Scouts, and schools.

By January 2005, the Vilseck Thrift Shop, contributed \$9,800 to the Vilseck Civilian and Spouses Club, according to Tom Beard, the accountant for the Vilseck store.

The Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr stores contributed about \$10,000 to their communities last year, according to the Hohenfels thrift store manager Evelyn Hutchins and Grafenwoehr store liaison Diane Fiedler.

Hours of operation are:

**Grafenwoehr, Bldg. 533** – Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Vilseck, Bldg. 221** – Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m.

Thursdays, 1-5 p.m.

**Hohenfels, Bldg. 344** – Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (closes at 2:30 p.m. during the winter)

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information, call Grafenwoehr's Darlene Fiedler, DSN 475-6181; Vilseck's Victoria Williamson, DSN 476-2649; or Hohenfels' Evelyn Hutchins, DSN 466-2798.



Grafenwoehr Thrift Shop volunteer Heather Becker organizes items on display.



The garrison thrift shops sale and consign a variety of items.

## Library, EO host Teacup Tales for 2006 Women's Equality Day

by CASEY THOMAS  
Staff writer

The Grafenwoehr Library and Garrison Equal Opportunity Office hosted Teacup Tales in honor of Woman's Equality Day Aug. 24.

Sgt. First Class David Ward, Grafenwoehr Equal Opportunity advisor, kicked off the celebration with a brief history of women's suffrage.

Following the presentation, attendees were offered tea and an assortment of cakes.

Each participant imagined that their teacup belonged to a woman (someone historical or someone they know) that has impacted their life.

Library technician Kathy Henderson chose former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

"I have always admired and respected Mrs. Roosevelt," said Kathy. "She was the woman behind the man and an extremely strong individual."

"Women and men are equal but different," said Stella Lafountain, "I think that it is interesting to see how far women have come."



Sieglinde Schedl, from the garrison Voting Assistance Office offered the tea attendees an opportunity to register to vote. Schedl will also conduct a voter registration drive for community members in front of the Vilseck PX today.

For more information on upcoming ethnic observances, contact EO advisor Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Reneah Porter at DSN 475-8038 or advisor Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class David Ward at DSN 475-7215.



Librarian Conny Camerer and the military group founder, Jim DiCrocco, kick off the August meeting.

## Graf military history group offers unique insights, events

Story and photo by CASEY THOMAS  
Staff writer

The military is full of colorful, in-depth history that its members and the public tend to take for granted.

For those who would like a better understanding and appreciation of that history, the Grafenwoehr Military History Group can help.

The group's members meet once a month to discuss military history events or their personal experiences while in the military.

"I like to be surrounded by military history," said Steve Schneider, while attending his third history group meeting. "It is nice to sit back and enjoy it."

Conny Camerer, of the Grafenwoehr Library, hosted the August meeting and discussed WWII German army pilot Ernst Udet.

"I grew up hearing stories about Ernst and thought that his life would be interesting to share," said Camerer. "Ernst was a German army legend."

The guest speaker for the October meeting is the grandson of a prisoner of war, who was held by the Germany army in the Grafenwoehr area.

To join the group, community members can attend any of the meetings, held at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month at the Grafenwoehr Library. Anyone is eligible to hosts a meeting.

For more information or to suggest a meeting topic, call Jim DiCrocco at DSN 475-6620.



## Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

### Pay attention to construction signs for new traffic routes

Due to ongoing construction at Grafenwoehr, motorists are asked to pay attention to road detour and closure signs for safe driving!

Motorists can find more information, including maps with detailed traffic flow patterns, in the garrison weekly e-newsletter and on the Command Information Channel.

### Place your free ad in the Bavarian News online

All valid ID cardholders can place free ads in the Bavarian News. Fill out the form at <http://www.rlehner.de/trainingtimes/freeclass.htm>.

### Vilseck Post Exchange, shoppette has new hours

Effective immediately, the following hours are in effect:

**Rose Barracks Shoppette:** Monday to Saturday from 5:30 a.m. to midnight, and Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Main Exchange:** Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. , and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**MCSS:** Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. , and closed on Sunday,

**Concession Mall:** Hours vary from store to store. See vendor for hours.

### Christian home educators support group meets in Graf

Grafenwoehr Garrison Christian Home Educators Support Group meets the second Thursday of each month at the Grafenwoehr Post Library between 6 and 8 pm.

Come and receive support, share resources, knowledge, and your wisdom.

For more information, contact Dawn Sovinsky at CIV 09608-923-733 or [terry.dawn@asamnet.de](mailto:terry.dawn@asamnet.de)

### Vilseck Fitness Center hours

In order to support the enhanced needs of the increasing Vilseck troop population, the hours of the fitness center are changed as follows:

Monday - Friday, 5:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sunday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### Super summer sale at Grafenwoehr Thrift Shop

A summer clothing sale will be held now through Sept. 15. All thrift shop property (adult and children clothing, excluding infant's) will be liquidated for the price of \$1 each!

The Grafenwoehr Thrift Shop, Bldg. 533, is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

For more information, call 475-6181.

### Final VA briefing for 2006

The final VA Briefing for Vilseck-Grafenwoehr is scheduled Sept. 13.

Anyone separating from the Army between now and February should attend one of these informative events.

Important topics, such as VA Home Loan Guarantee, Montgomery GI Bill, Disability Ratings, and more, will be discussed.

Call 476-2055 to reserve a seat.

### Spouses Club hosting Crown Jewel Bazaar Oct. 27-29

The Vilseck and Grafenwoehr Community and spouses clubs are hosting their popular annual event featuring dozens of Europes's finest vendors Oct. 27-29.

Mark these dates on your calendar and stay tuned for more information (ie., location, vendor wares, and much more).

### Got questions? Ask AAFES, DECA experts on the radio

AAFES General Manager Matt Mennona and Commissary Manager Jimmie Holzhauser will be on-hand in the AFN-Bavaria studio to take your questions about their community operations Sept. 13 from 9-10 a.m. on AM 1107.

You can also pre-position questions to the AAFES and DeCA experts by going to <http://www.afneurope.net/bavaria/Article.asp?id=257246>

You will be directed to a "Submit a Question" link which will open an Outlook e-mail window on your screen

addressed to [jose.colon@afne.army.mil](mailto:jose.colon@afne.army.mil)  
The number to call on Sept. 13 is DSN 476-3176 or CIV 09662-83-3176.

### New parent support group changes playgroup hours

At Grafenwoehr: Caterpillars and Butterflies meet at the Field House every Thursday morning from 10-1130 a.m.. Registration is not required for children ages birth up to 4 years old.

At Vilseck: Caterpillars and Butterflies meet every Wednesday morning from 9:30-11 a.m. at the chapel nursery. Registration is not required also for children from birth to age 4.

For more information, call DSN 476-2650.

### Vilseck Family Readiness Center open daily

Family members from 2SCR, deployed units and Soldiers TDY here can now use the FRC to e-mail their loved ones back home or downrange. The center will be open from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. daily.

Send up to five minutes of streaming video to loved ones, morale call down range, VTC by appointment, FRG meeting room and more.

**Location:** Bldg. 273, Vilseck  
**Phone:** DSN 476-3940 or CIV 09662-83-3940.

### Looking for a place to conduct training/meetings?

Why not contact the Vilseck Digital Training Facility?

■ Fully equipped classrooms with video teletraining capabilities

■ Distance learning available through CATC

■ Self paced learning through the Army correspondence course program

■ Computer Based Learning

■ Video Media

■ PowerPoint Presentation

■ Customized Training Support

For more information or to make a request, call Facility Manager Tove Thompson at DSN 476-3578, CI 09662-83-3578, or e-mail [tove.f.thompson@us.army.mil](mailto:tove.f.thompson@us.army.mil).

### New Saturday Thrift Shop hours at Grafenwoehr

The Grafenwoehr Thrift Shop is now open on Saturdays!

Beginning Sept. 9, the shop will be open on the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with consignments taken from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Check us out for all your household and clothing needs! For more information, call 475-6181.

### Vilseck main road closed 6:30 – 7:30 a.m.

Vilseck's main road (starting at the library and ending at Bldg. 700 will be closed for PT between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m. through Monday as a test.

### Grafenwoehr one-mile Friendship Walk Sept. 30

In preparation for Individuals with Disabilities Awareness Month (October), a one-mile Friendship Walk to promote special needs awareness will take place Sept. 30.

The event will feature information booths (EDIS, EFMP, CYS, DoDDS, EEO). Everyone is invited for food, fun, and friendship.

Participants will gather at the Grafenwoehr parade ground in front of Bldg. 621. The one-mile walk will take place 9:30-10 a.m.

For more information, call Karen Vojtecky at DSN 476-3221.

### EUCOM urges travelers to monitor advisories on Web

U.S. European Command is urging U.S. military travelers with planned travel through the United Kingdom to monitor the U.K.'s Department of Transport Web site, [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk), for travel advisories and restrictions.

Travelers can expect delays in commercial travel through other European cities as well.

All U.S. military personnel in Europe are reminded to be watchful of suspicious activity and to monitor the Department of Homeland Security and Department of State Web sites for threat warnings and other advisories.

### Hahnbach corn maze open for season through Sunday

Visit the Corn Maze in Hahnbach

through Sunday. Entrance fee is • 2,50 for adults and • 1,50 for children. For more information, visit [www.maislabyrinth.de](http://www.maislabyrinth.de) and <http://www.maislabyrinth-hahnbach.de/>.

You can visit the maze daily from 2 to 9 p.m. You can also join some of the scheduled special events.

### Bank hours changed

The Grafenwoehr Community Bank will change operating hours due to Staff Training: Sept. 13 - open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

### Motorcycle club meetings set

The garrison motorcycle group meets at the Thai restaurant in Grafenwoehr: Tomorrow and Sept. 21  
Oct. 5 and 19  
Nov. 2, 16, and 30  
Dec. 14 and 28

### 9/11 commemorations set Monday at Graf, Vilseck

Father Navarrete will conduct a **Catholic mass** at the smaller chapel complex on Monday at 7 a.m. in Grafenwoehr and at noon in Vilseck in memory of those who perished on Sept. 11, 2001.

**Ecumenical Prayer Service** of Remembrance at the Graf and Vilseck chapels from noon -12:30 p.m. Monday.

**VFW Post #10692** invites the public to meet in the Grafenwoehr Burger King parking lot at 4:30 p.m. Monday. At 4:40 p.m. we will walk to Bldg. 621 for a September 11 Memorial March. We will participate in a "retreat" at 5 p.m.

### Your vote counts! September primary elections schedule

**Monday** - Virgin Islands  
**Tuesday** - Arizona; Delaware; D.C.; Maryland; Minnesota; New Hampshire; N.Y.; Rhode Island; Vermont; Wisconsin  
**Sept. 19** - Massachusetts; Washington  
**Sept. 23** - Hawaii

Register to vote at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)

### Welcome to Bavaria three-day orientation schedule

Discover Bavaria's culture, language and traditions during Welcome to Bavaria, held at Vilseck's Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. 2236.

Upcoming classes are as follows:  
**Tuesday - Sept. 14**  
**Sept. 19-21**  
**Sept. 26-28**

For more info, call DSN 476-2650.

### Schools on half-day schedule Friday for staff training

Schools in Grafenwoehr and Vilseck will operate on a half-day schedule Friday. Schools will dismiss at about 11:30 a.m.

Each school will send information to students and parents with exact dismissal times.

The half-day schedule is due to

critical training for teachers and staff on the DoDDS information system.

### Here's how to contact your school or school bus office

To contact the schools for information call VES at 476-2812; VHS at 476-2554; GES and GMS at 475-7133; School Bus Office at 476-3087; and Steve Vojtecky, USAG G school liaison officer, at [steve.vojtecky@us.army.mil](mailto:steve.vojtecky@us.army.mil).

### Combined Federal Campaign kicks off Oct. 2

The Combined Federal Campaign was founded in 1964 to help raise funds for people who are less fortunate.

Many charitable organizations depend on the donations of thoughtful people to successfully help the disadvantaged.

The 2006 CFC Campaign kicks off Oct. 2. Contact Christine Nunez at DSN 475-8432 or [christine.nunez@us.army.mil](mailto:christine.nunez@us.army.mil) for more information or individual training.

### Retiree Health Day set Sept. 30 at Vilseck Clinic

Retiree Health Day will be held 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Vilseck Clinic.

### Vilseck Airfield gate closing one hour earlier Sept. 15

Gate 1A (Vilseck Airfield) will be open from 6 – 7:30 a.m. on Sept. 15, closing one hour earlier in support of the 2SCR Welcome Back Ceremony.

Traffic using Gate 1A Sept. 13-15 will be required to use a gravel bypass road upon entering the gate due to ceremony set-up on the airstrip.

Motorists who do not wish to drive on gravel are advised to use Vilseck's Main Gate 1.

### Vilseck Falcons host local football scrimmage tonight

There will be a local scrimmage between the Vilseck Falcons and the Hohenfels football team tonight at 4:30 p.m. at the Falcon Field. Support your team. Call DSN 476-2554 for more information.

### Don't miss the largest Volksfest in Northern Bavaria

Dozens of ride, plenty of food, drink, and entertainment are available through Sunday at the Nuernberg Volksfest.

### Cub Scout Pack 261 signing up new members. Join now!

Designed for boys in first through fifth grades, Cub Scouting combines outdoor activities, sports, academics and more in a program that helps teach ideals such as honesty, good citizenship and respect.

Grafenwoehr Pack 261 is registering new members. Call CIV 09641-83-5308 for more information.

## Hohenfels Briefs

### Warrior Way speed limit reduced during set hours

Effective immediately, the speed limit on Warrior Way will be permanently reduced from 50 kph to 30 kph between the hours of 6 and 8 a.m.

Monday – Wednesday and on Fridays to make running PT less hazardous.

Speed limit signs will change to 30 kph at 6 a.m. and back to 50 at 8 a.m.

### New ATM at commissary

The long awaited Service Credit Union ATM has arrived at the Commissary and is up and running for your convenience.

The machine is located in the Cart Return room to the left of the main entrance. The ATM is available during the commissary hours of operation (Tuesday through Friday 10a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.).

ATM hours will expand in the future.

### Late Bus program cancelled through Sept. 29

The experiment with the "last Friday of the month" late shuttle bus to all off post housing areas from the PX/Theater was unsuccessful due to a lack of riders.

The service has been cancelled and will open again Sept. 29. If we fail to get any community support after Sept. 29, the program will be permanently cancelled.

### Hohenfels PWOC annual Fall Kick-Off tonight

Join us for the Protestant Women of the Chapel's Annual Fall Kick-Off for food, fun, and fellowship tonight at 6 p.m. at the Nainhof Chapel.

Free child care for ages 6 weeks to 5 years. E-mail Jean Adams at [gvmejesus@yahoo.com](mailto:gvmejesus@yahoo.com).

### Sign up for flamenco classes

We are looking for dancers for our Flamenco dance classes. We need five or more participants to continue the class.

Sign up at the post gym. Class will be cancelled if participation is too low.

For more information, call DSN 466-2883.

### 9/11 Commemorative service set at Nainhof Chapel

Join the community in remembering 9/11 in a service at the Nainhof Chapel from 2:45-3:45 p.m. on Sept. 11.

We will remember this day in our history when 2,819 innocent people were murdered in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania by terrorists.

Due to the solemn nature of the ceremony, Soldiers are requested to wear the Class A uniform.

# Grafenwoehr Crown Jewel Bazaar

Be treated like Royalty and save a Fortune!

October 27 -29, 2006  
USAG Grafenwoehr

**Bazaar Location**

**Ribbon Cutting**

**Opening Hours**



**JMTC Camp Aachen**

**Friday, 27 Oct., 11:00**

**Friday, 27 Oct., 11 -19:00**

**Saturday, 28 Oct., 10 -19:00**

**Sunday, 29 Oct., 11 -17:00**



**Featuring dozens of Europe's finest vendors!**

English Fine China, Rugs, Wines & Cheese, Antique and custom-made Furniture, Paintings, Bavarian Clothing, Italian Porcelain, Gold and Silver Jewelry, Polish Pottery, Tapestries, Fine Table Linen, and much more!

Sponsored by the Vilseck & Grafenwoehr Community and Spouses' Clubs

Bazaar is open to all Military I.D. Card Holders, Visa, Mastercard, Cash & Checks accepted. Stroller Park available.





# HUNTING 101

## Want to hunt in Germany? Know the facts!

by MARTINA BIAS

Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

The beginning of fall has many meanings for different people. Kids think of going back to school, sports fans look forward to football season, and hunters are preparing to once again pursue their favorite past time. Common game animals in Germany are roe deer, red deer, chamois, wild boar, hares, rabbits, waterfowl (ducks), and other birds (pigeons, pheasants, partridges). Foxes are also commonly hunted, but hunting birds of prey, wild cats, and endangered animals is strictly forbidden. It is important to know what makes hunting in Germany significantly different from hunting in the U.S.

### Differences

First of all, it is a long process for a German to get a hunting license, known as a "Jagdschein." It usually takes anywhere from 12-18 months of schooling. Americans in Germany can take the abbreviated version, which still takes two to three months in class and a final written and oral exam, followed by a weapons proficiency test.

Another major difference and privilege is that only licensed hunters and sport shooting club members are allowed to own weapons in Germany.

German law stipulates that hunters must have their weapons secured in lockable, metal gun safes that are secured to the floor or wall, and there must be two locked entryways to the gun storage area.

To legally own weapons, one must have a "Waffenbesitzkarte," or weapons-owner card, which lists your weapon's make, model, serial number, and caliber.

### Owning weapons

The only way to obtain a Waffenbesitzkarte is to have a Jagdschein or a sport shooting club membership card.

A Jagdschein can be obtained for up to a three-year period. Hunters must also have hunting insurance to obtain the hunting license (three-year license = three-year insurance coverage).

If you do not renew your hunting license or sport club membership, the German authorities will give you a limited time period to sell your weapons. If you do not comply, the weapons will be confiscated by the Polizei and destroyed by a gunsmith.

The hunting season begins on May 1 in Bavaria's Rehbock and Schmalreh regions, and May 15 for the rest of Germany. The season closes Jan. 31 (Oct. 1 for Rehbock).

The variety of seasons for other game are based on the animal and the sex.

Germans primarily hunt on "Reviers" (hunting areas), which are a collection of properties that must be at least 80 hectare (200 acres) in size.

### Hunting areas

In some cases, private landowners who have a hunting license cannot hunt their own land due to the size requirements of a Revier.



Courtesy photo

After a German drive hunt, the ceremonial "Strecke" takes place in which hunters line up their game.

As a matter of fact, most privately owned lands are small parcels spread out over a wide area and can be part of different Reviers since all property that is used for hunting in Germany is organized into Reviers and managed by state and federal forestry agencies.

State areas can be leased by Germans and Americans on a year-by-year basis. This may be the best course of action for Americans who wish to hunt in Germany. For most German hunters, Reviers are usually leased out in a nine or 12-year plan.

An "Abschuss," or game plan, is usually associated with the lease. These game plans are determined by the forestry officials.

The number of animals that need to be harvested is based on the land's capacity to provide enough nourishment for a healthy herd.

My husband's Abschuss, for example, is for four roe bucks, three roe does, three roe fawns, and one red deer yearling.

### Survival rate

While it may seem cruel to shoot the young, it helps to ensure that those that are not harvested have a better chance of survival, particularly when the food sources are scarce during the winter months.

Additionally, roe deer typically have twins, so the harvesting of one of the young (usually the smaller of the two) increases the survival rate of the sibling.

### The sitting hunt

There are many methods of hunting in Germany. The most common is the Ansitz, in which the hunter sits in a stand or pre-positioned chair.

You may have seen the hunting seats in various fields and forests throughout in

Bavaria. If the seat is covered, it is called a Kanzel, and if it is uncovered, the open seat is called a Leiter.

The second most common method of hunting is drive hunts. These typically take place in late fall when forestry officials are trying to meet their yearly game plan. They are social events that follow time-honored customs and involve many traditions.

### The drive hunt

Drive hunts start out with the reading of the hunt rules, often followed by hunters playing "Jagdhorns" (hunting horns) and traditional songs to celebrate the event.

During the hunt, some people will act as hunters (usually in stands), and others act as drivers, walking through the forest to push game toward the hunters.

When a buck is shot, hunters through the ages have placed a "Pallium," or small branch of evergreen (oak when evergreen is not available) in the mouth of the fallen game.

This is done as an offering of the "Last Bite," signifying a final salute to the animal and symbolically giving back to God "the soul which I receive from Him."

### The lineup

When the hunt is complete, all participants gather where the harvested animals are arranged in a long-recognized order of importance called "Strecke" (route) with red deer stags first, followed by red deer cows, red deer calves, roe deer, pigs, and then foxes.

The animal is always placed on its right side. When present, horn players play songs that give thanks to God and pay respect to the animals. There are specific songs for each type of animal that is harvested.

Upon conclusion, each hunter who was successful that day is called forward by the owner of the Revier or the drive organizer to receive a tree branch dipped in the blood of the harvested animal. This branch is then tucked into the hunter's hat band.

### Fond farewells

A common farewell between hunters as they depart ways to hunt is "Weidmannsheil." The same greeting is given to a hunter who has been successful that day. The response to these well wishes is "Weidmannsdank."

### Purchasing game

Most American hunters are surprised to learn that the meat of the animal they have shot is not theirs to keep, as is the norm in the States.

If it is a male deer, the hunter can claim the antlers. For wild boars, it is the "Waffen," the tusks.

The only meat the hunter is entitled to (unless specifically told otherwise prior to the hunt) is what is referred to as the Jaegerrecht (hunter's rights). This consists of the heart, liver, and kidneys.

If the hunter desires the meat of the animal, he has first rights to purchase the meat from the Revier owner or state/federal forestry official.

If the hunter does not purchase the meat, it is usually sold, often to Gasthaus owners who prepare and serve it on their menus.

### Roadkill

A word of caution: Do not take home any animal hit by a car. Doing so could result in you being charged with poaching. If you hit an animal with your vehicle, remove it to the side of the road, and notify the MPs. They will contact the appropriate officials to come and pick the animal up.

### Poaching menace

Finally, a warning to all pet owners: If your cat or dog is seen unattended and 300 meters or more from an inhabitable structure, a hunter has the legal right to shoot the animal as a poaching menace, especially if it is seen chasing game.

Most hunters will not do this automatically, but please be aware that they could legally do so if they see your pet as a disturbance to the wildlife.

If you or someone you know is interested in hunting on post, contact Dale Doeden (DSN 475-7402) with Grafenwoehr's Outdoor Recreation.

Have you ever wondered why Germans do certain things? I welcome your questions and comments. E-mail me at [martina.bias@us.army.mil](mailto:martina.bias@us.army.mil), and I may be able to address your suggestions in a future column.

## Money matters

Hunting in Germany can be expensive. Besides having a two-lock system in your home (secured to wall or floor) for your weapon, you must also have insurance. ♦ My husband paid 55 Euros for three years of coverage. His hunting license fee cost 55 Euros two years ago, and this was for a three-year period. Three years is the maximum amount of time one can purchase, and it is valid from April 1 - March 31 the following year. My husband's hunting area cost 580 Euros this year (comparable to a hunting lease in the U.S.), and if he makes his Abschuss, then his lease will only cost about 290 Euros next year. ♦ If you hunt on post, you have to pay trophy fees for the animals you shoot. A red buck with a six-point rack could cost around 250 Euros, based on the age of the animal and weight of the horns. The cost to shoot a Class I Stag (10-14 year red deer male) can cost several thousand Euros. Female deer are rather inexpensive to shoot, as are the fawns. ♦ The best deal for Americans on a budget is to go with the state lease, which are the aforementioned prices. This fee includes the trophy fees for red, but not for red deer and large boar. Those fees are comparable to the fees charged on post by the Bundesforstamt.

# Legend of St. Hubertus gives way to delicious dish

by MARTINA BIAS

Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

If you enjoy German cuisine, you are probably familiar with the famous "Jaegerschnitzel," a pork steak topped with mushroom sauce.

"Jaeger" is the German word for hunter and it is used to name dishes that contain mushrooms.

Another term that you might run across for the same type of fare is "Hubertus." St. Hubertus is the patron saint of hunters and foresters in northern Europe.

### The Legend of St. Hubertus

Legend has it that Hubertus, born in the seventh century, seeks comfort and distraction on lonely hunts after the death of his beloved wife Princess Floribana. His wife was said to have passed away while giving birth to his first son.

One Christmas Eve during a hunt, he encounters a splendid red albino stag carrying a shining cross between its antlers.

Hubertus is so moved by this vision that he decides to transform his life. He gives up his high ranks of office and distributes all of his wealth to the poor and the church.

If food is scarce in the winter, he goes out

to the forest to provide it for the animals.

From this German legend comes one of our tastiest dishes: Hubertuspfanne, literally Hubertus' pan.

The following recipe, a creamy pork dish that serves well on a bed of rice, with Spaetzle, or mashed potatoes, was requested by one of our readers. Guten Appetit!

### Hubertuspfanne

- 1 pound pork steaks, boneless pork loin or pork schnitzel
- 3 Tbs. oil
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp pepper
- ½ pound fresh mushrooms, cleaned and quartered or sliced
- 2 onions, peeled and cut into eight wedges
- ½ pint whipping cream
- ½ cup white wine
- 1-3 Tbs. sauce-thickening-agent (German "Sossenbinder" or Wondra flour)
- 1 tsp. dried majoram or ½ bundle fresh, chopped, optional

Pat meat dry and cut into thin strips (similar to stir-fry).



photo by Martina Bias

Hubertuspfanne, literally Hurbertus' pan, is a creamy pork dish that is easy and quick to make.

In a large pan, heat oil and brown meat strips. Sprinkle with salt and pepper and remove from pan (keep warm).

Add mushrooms and onions to the same pan and brown. Return meat to pan.

Add whipping cream and white wine; bring to a boil.

Stir in sauce-thickener and boil for one minute. Sprinkle with majoram, if desired.



A stained glass depiction of St. Hubertus, the patron saint of northern Europe's hunters and foresters.

Courtesy photo

Serve over rice, pasta, or mashed potatoes. Yield: 4 servings

Do you have a favorite German dish you would like to recreate at home? E-mail me at [martina.bias@us.army.mil](mailto:martina.bias@us.army.mil).



# U.S. Forces Europe Championship Ramstein men, Heidelberg ladies take titles

by RUSTY BRYAN

*Stars & Stripes, European edition*

The Ramstein Rams and the Heidelberg Lady Generals defended their U.S. Forces Europe softball titles in a walk at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr on Sunday.

Heidelberg rode a seven-run fifth to down Army Europe champion SHAPE 15-8, and USAFE champion Ramstein battered Spangdahlem with a 13-home run barrage in a 45-6 title-game romp.

## Ramstein men 45, Spangdahlem 6

The championship games of this two-day event, matching the top two teams each from USAFE and Army-Europe, are played without the home-run limit ordinarily used to hold down slow-pitch scores, and the muscular Rams took full advantage of the long ball.

"With no home run limit," said winning pitcher Tim Snyder, "we liked our chances."

As it turned out, Spangdahlem had no chance. The Rams led 11-2 after one inning, 18-3 after two and 28-3 after three.

Snyder, tourney MVP Lance Blocker, Shane Byrd and Mark Noll each hit two over the 15-foot-high fences of Grafenwoehr's new softball complex. By contrast, Snyder limited Spangdahlem to just one homer, a solo shot by catcher Mark Klass in the fourth.

"We've played those guys about 20 times this season," Snyder said when asked how he was able to keep the ball in the park while the Ramstein batters were losing softballs by the dozen in the weed-covered berm behind the fences. "We know what they can do. There are no surprises."



Photo by Kathy Jordan

**The Heidelberg Lady Generals and SHAPE team members gather on the victory field Aug. 27 in celebration of their first and second place wins, respectively.**

The title was the fourth straight for Air Force men's teams in this annual interservice battle, unofficially known as the Army-Air Force Final Four. Ramstein won in 2006, 2005 and 2003; Spangdahlem took the 2003 USFE crown.

"We just go out to have fun," said Blocker, a 2006 addition to the Rams from Camp Darby, Italy. "We're always glad to bring two Air Force teams into the final."

Blocker went 7-for-7 in the title game, banging out four singles and a double to go with his two homers. As a team, Ramstein registered 22 hits to just nine for Spangdahlem.

Ramstein reached the final with a 25-10 victory over Army Europe runner-up Kitzingen on Sunday morning that avenged a 20-19 loss to Kitzingen in Saturday's round-robin play.

It was Ramstein's only loss of the

tournament.

Spangdahlem, which lost to Ramstein 15-11 in the round-robin, eliminated Army champion Stuttgart 15-1 in the other semifinal.

## Heidelberg ladies 15, SHAPE 8

The Lady Generals, who dropped a one-run decision to SHAPE in the previous week's Army Europe title game and saw three of their previous four games in this event decided by one run, enjoyed a rare romp.

"It felt great," said Heidelberg shortstop Leigh Anne Newcomer of the big lead the Lady Generals amassed after their seven-run, fifth-inning rally. "It really took the pressure off."

The relief was even starker in light of Heidelberg's tense 13-12 semifinal victory in 10 innings over Air Force runner-up Incirlik in Sunday's semifinal.

Left fielder Tonya Griffin stroked a home run to provide the winning margin in that game as eventual tourney MVP Mary King-Espinoza shut the Lady Nomads down in the late going.

King-Espinoza came back to hurl the title game victory, adding a two-run homer of her own in the decider.

"I didn't do anything," she said. "The defense played very well behind me. All I did was throw the ball in there."

Heidelberg second baseman Juanita Harvin, whose bases-loaded hit cleared them in the decisive fifth, said the victory made up for the tough extra-inning loss her team absorbed in the Army-Europe title game.

"We always do it the hard way," she said. "They won USAREUR, but we won the Final Four."

## Nemechek finishes 26th in Bristol

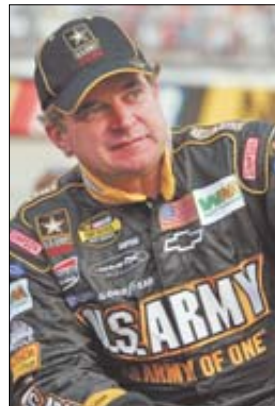
*Army News Service*

Joe Nemechek stayed the course and battled back from a 41st starting position to finish 26th in the Aug. 26 Sharpie 500 at Bristol Motor Speedway.

"We had a lot to overcome, but we still thought we would have had a better finish," Nemechek said following the completion of the 500-lap race on the historic half-mile oval. "It seemed like every time we went to the back there would be a long green-flag run and we would get a lap down. The cautions didn't play into our favor tonight."

Though Nemechek finished the race, his 01 Army Chevrolet didn't go unscathed. His rear bumper got knocked in a few times and the right-front fender took a beating when he scraped the wall on Lap 380.

"Our Army Chevy took a few hits and got a few bruises, but nothing so severe that we couldn't finish the race," said Nemechek. "You're just happy to come out of this place with all of the fenders on the car."



Nemechek

# Black Knights step up their game

*Army Athletic Communications*

With pre-season camp drawing to a close, Army head coach Bobby Ross couldn't be more pleased with the recent performance of his club.

For three years running, the veteran grid mentor has been stressing to his team the need for consistency in its practice traits. Following the Aug. 18 solid scrimmage and strong efforts on Aug. 19 and Aug. 21, Ross believes his Black Knights are finally nearing the mindset he has tried to instill in the squad.

"I liked our Friday scrimmage; I thought we did some good things," Ross stated. "I thought our offense showed some improvement, particularly in two areas. I thought the receiving corps did a very fine job; they had no drops in 38 throws to them."

"And the other area that I thought we improved in was the offensive line," he said. "I thought we showed a lot of improvement there and did a much better job up front. That's a key for us. We've got to be good there. Overall, I was pleased."

"We're starting to practice the way I've been wanting us to practice for three years on a consistent basis," he continued. "We've done it in spots in past years, but now we're starting to understand that it has to be that way every day, and it has been here in the last five or six days. Hopefully that carries over as we continue to go."

One of the most important developments of camps has been the growth and development of

David Pevoto as a legitimate difference-maker at the quarterback spot. The junior native of Colleyville, Texas, has settled in at the position after winning the starting job during spring practice.

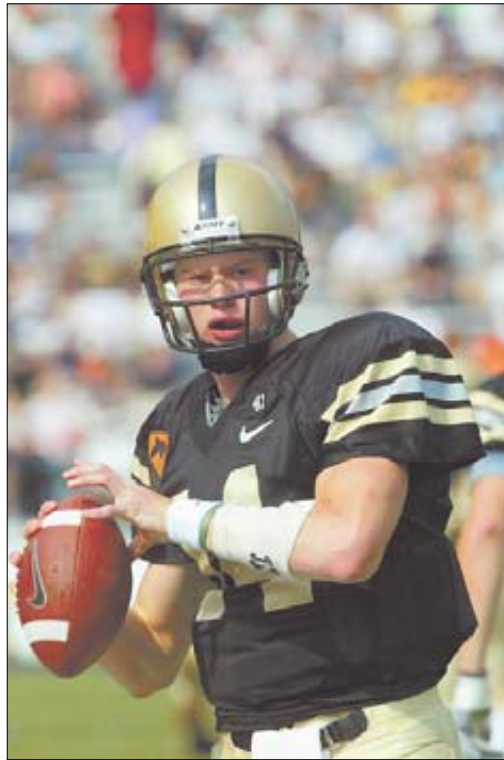
"David threw the ball very well today and he is doing all the right things at the line of scrimmage, which is what we're asking him to do," Ross explained. "The other youngsters are also coming along."

"Right now it looks like the top three will be (Pevoto), Kevin Dunn and then probably the freshman, Carson Williams, who has done a very fine job," he said. "(Williams) is just a very poised football player and has a nice (passing) touch. I think all three have made nice progress, although David is clearly the No. 1 guy."

"David's confidence is building daily. He's really stepped up," said Ross. "Confidence is important at the quarterback position. We can tell him things now and he picks them up. He might make a bad play every now and then, but we can tell him something and he will learn from it and move on to the next step."

Taking that next step meant focusing on Arkansas State during the Aug. 21 practice, as Ross and his staff introduced the schemes and tendencies of the season's first opponent.

"We went heavy on Arkansas State," Ross said. "I'm doing things a little bit different from last year. I'm spending a little bit more time on Arkansas State earlier. The main reason is to let our players see what they need to see in preparation for the game."



Army Athletic Communications

**David Pevoto is a legitimate difference-maker at the quarterback spot, according to Army head coach Bobby Ross.**

# Sports editor notes 'chink' in American heavyweight boxing armor

It took a seven-year rematch to finally bring some excitement back to boxing's heavyweight division.

I'm not sure it did much else for a class that's in as good a shape as Stephen Hawking in a marathon, but at least pugilism fans had something to cheer about for a change—and get their money's worth during the Aug. 12 pay-per-view event.

Billed as "America's Last Line of Defense," the battle between American Hasim Rahman (41-6-2) and Kazakhstan-born Oleg Maskaev (33-5, 26 KOs) at Las Vegas' Caesar's Palace was the U.S.'s last hope of retaining a piece of the heavyweight pie.

Similar to the decline of the U.S. basketball program, foreign-born heavyweights are now proving that there is a chink in America's armor.

And Maskaev, who now calls Staten Island home, proved that against Rahman by stopping him via

TKO in the 12th round of the duo's WBC-title slugfest. East European-born fighters hold claim on all four heavyweight belts.

The only question that remains was posed by HBO's Larry Merchant: "Will Americans accept the fact that all four (heavyweight) titles are, as of tonight, held by fighters originating from outside of the United States?"

Along with Maskaev, those fighters include Wladimir Klitschko of the Ukraine (IBF), Nikolay Valuev of Russia (WBA), and Sergei Liakhovich of Belarus (WBO).

American Monte Barrett will have the next chance Oct. 7 to champion America's cause when he faces the 7-2, 300-plus-pound Valuev, also known as "The Beast of the East."

Regardless of where the heavyweight champs comes from, though, I find it hard to believe any true excitement lurks in the wings.

Saturday, though, was a much-

welcomed surprise—with the hype coming from the pair's 1999 bout during which Maskaev knocked

Rahman through the ropes and onto a computer-filled media table before crashing to the deck.

Despite that, Rahman was favored Saturday—most-likely due to his high success rate since the 1999 em-barrassment compared to Maskaev's low success rate, which included him being knocked out three times in five fights from 2000-02. Luckily, when he was urged to retire back then, he didn't, because

we *finally* saw another exciting heavyweight fight.

It was a match that was anybody's game. If Rahman would have won the last round, the official scorecard from the judges would have had the fight a draw.

Maskaev's heroics, though, gave many fight fans something to scream and shout about for the first time since Iron Mike Tyson legitimately terrorized the squared circle.

From the looks of it, it will be a long time until something like that happens again. Don't get me wrong. I have nothing against a foreign-born heavyweight champion. Not many of us can truly trace our roots to the U.S., right? Just try saying my last name!



## SPORTS VIEW

BY WILLIAM WILCZEWSKI

What I want, though, is excitement in what many people consider the sport's premier division. The problem is, none of these native Eastern bloc fighters bring that, accept for maybe Valuev—but that's only because of his freakish size.

But, until something changes in the heavyweight division, let's just take comfort in the fact that *all* hope is not lost; that the once-dominant heavyweight division may still be able to provide memorable moments like we saw Saturday night—regardless of who those heavyweights are or where they come from.

What do YOU think? E-mail "Ski" at [william.wilczewski@knox.army.mil](mailto:william.wilczewski@knox.army.mil)

**William "Ski" Wilczewski is an award-winning sports editor for Fort Knox's The Turret newspaper. He has been published in "Chicken Soup for the Sports Lover's Soul" and other publications.**



# Coffee table book features DoDDS-E student art

## DoDDS-E

Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe will distribute its annual arts and literature publication, SHOWCASE Anthology, to schools and students across Europe in September.

The coffee table book features the writing and artwork of students in kindergarten through 12th grade from DoDDS-E schools across Europe and reflects the efforts of hundreds of teachers working with thousands of students to produce outstanding work.

The 2006 edition will contain more color pages than previous editions as

well as an electronic version of the book on CD.

The selection process for SHOWCASE begins with classroom teachers recommending art and literary pieces at the individual school level. Their choices are forwarded to the five DoDDS-E district superintendent's offices for review by panels of teachers, students, parents and district art and language arts liaisons.

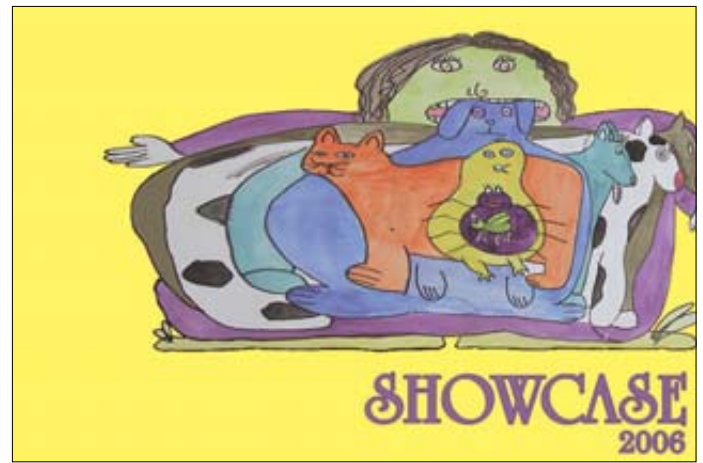
Their selections were submitted for final review in May to the DoDDS-E SHOWCASE editorial board.

Over 4,000 submissions were considered for publication.

The process for submitting and selecting student work for the 2007 issue is now under way in schools across Europe.

Interested students should consult with their school's art and literature teachers for details about submitting their work for consideration.

The Editor in Chief of the 2006 issue is John Speegle of Bitburg High School. The Layout and Art Editor is Susan Nance of Sigonella High School. The Literary Editor is Susan Culbertson of Menwith Hill High School and the Index Editor is Sandy DeLaughter of Hohenfels High School.



The book contains the art-work and writings of DoDDS students in grades K-12.

## Income replacement program launched for reservists

### American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department this month kicked off a program to help prevent activated reservists and National Guardsmen from facing financial hardships.

The Reserve Income Replacement Program will pay eligible National Guard and reserve members mobilized for extended or frequent periods the difference between their monthly civilian pre-mobilization income and their current total monthly military compensation.

"RIRP is designed to assist those mobilized Guard and reserve members that are experiencing a loss of income while mobilized," said Tom Bush, principal director of manpower and reserve affairs for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

Program payments are not automatic. Guard and reserve members must apply for the RIRP payments thorough their service personnel offices.

To qualify for RIRP, servicemembers must:

\* Be serving on active duty in an involuntary status and have completed

18 continuous months of involuntary active duty, or

\* Have completed 24 cumulative months of involuntary active duty within the last 60 months, or

\* Be serving on involuntary active duty for a period of 180 days or more that starts within six months of separation from a previous period on involuntary active duty for at least 180 days.

Guard and reserve members serving on involuntary active duty and earning at least \$50 less than their normal civilian income each month must verify eligibility for this benefit through their military service's personnel system, using a new DD form created for this program, DoD officials said.

Financial records submitted with the RIRP application must include the member's most recent federal income tax return or other record of earnings that shows gross income during the 12 months before the member's mobilization, officials said.

Congress authorized the Reserve Income Replacement Program as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2006. The authority for RIRP will expire Dec. 31, 2008.

## Web site outlines voting options for overseas personnel, families

### by Sgt. SARA WOOD

#### American Forces Press Service

A new Web site has been developed by the Defense Department to provide information on electronic voting options for service members and other U.S. citizens living overseas.

The Integrated Voting Alternative Site will include information from all 55 states and territories on the various electronic ballot request and delivery alternatives available to U.S. citizens living overseas covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, said Scott Wiedmann, deputy director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

The IVAS will be found on the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site, and will be updated to reflect changes to state laws, he said.

The by-mail ballot system is still the preferred, and most used, voting method for troops and citizens overseas, said Wiedmann, but it isn't always available, so DoD developed electronic alternatives starting in 1990.

"Service members, just like any other American citizen, have the right to participate in the electoral process," he said.

Different states have different electronic voting options, but they almost all allow overseas citizens to use fax machines for at least part of the voting process, said Wiedmann.

About 30 states offer blank ballot delivery by fax, and 24 states allow citizens to return ballots by fax.

Ballots cannot be filled out or submitted online because of security concerns, said Wiedmann, but the IVAS will have an electronic Federal Post Card Application - the form citizens use to request an absentee ballot - that can be filled out and submitted to the state officials via a secure site.

The state officials can then post a blank ballot to the same site, and the citizen can print it out and mail it back when completed, he said.

"Where states are able to participate, either through their state laws or procedures, to use electronic capabilities, we encourage that," he said. "That helps to cut down part of the process."

State governments are responsible for the voting process, and DoD does not register any voters or send in ballots.

The department simply acts as an intermediary, ensuring citizens covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act have a chance to vote, said Wiedmann.

"It's our job to carry out that act and do whatever we can to facilitate that process and that communication between the individual member and their local election official," he said.

It's important for service members to participate in this year's election because members of Congress make many decisions directly affecting the military, explained Wiedmann. Decisions about military pay, housing, and base closure go through Congress, he noted.



Photo by Jodi Ward

VAHS principal Robert Sennett (left) presents Vilseck Mayor Hans-Martin Schertl with a school sweatshirt Aug. 23.

## Vilseck reception welcomes back garrison teachers

### Continued From Page 1

changes that garrison schools are undergoing, specifically the middle school.

"It's much better for middle schoolers to have a school of their own," said Vilseck American High School Principal Robert Sennett.

"We lost 11 of our staff members to the new middle school but we have eight new staff members on our team," he said.

Due to the influx of the 2<sup>d</sup> Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldiers and their families, Vojtecky said garrison schools hired approximately 40- 50 new teachers.

He said most of the new teachers were already in the DoDDS system and moved from other locations in Europe.

Newly arrived 2SCR family members weren't the only people who had to adjust to a different culture. Teachers also had some learning to do with the influx of about 700 new "Stryker" students to the community.

"At first we didn't understand what a Stryker was," said Vilseck Elementary science teacher Priscilla Veto.

"But we've all since learned, and I've seen one too," she said.

## Construction nearing halfway point

### Continued From Page 1

and Soldiers from those units recently occupied one of the new barracks buildings, said Bartsch.

"We are starting to fill three newly renovated barracks buildings, which each hold 76 single Soldiers," Watsek added. And more and more Soldiers are moving into newly built off-post "build-to-lease" housing as they arrive in Grafenwoehr, he said.

Other EBG projects that are complete include the 3747th Reserve Training Brigade facility at Camp Normandy, the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center and the dining facility on main post. The chow hall will not open until next year, when more Soldiers arrive, officials said.

One project that was delayed by several months, but is back on track, is a wash rack upgrade between gates 6 and 9.

The project was set back after a contractor went out of business. However, Watsek said the delay allowed the project to be redesigned to cater to wheeled vehicles such as the newly arrived 2nd Cavalry Regiment Stryker armored personnel carriers, instead of tracked vehicles.

Perhaps the most visible EBG project is a \$29.5 million shopping complex that will include a post exchange, commissary, and parking for 1,000 vehicles. The mall's construction has advanced rapidly in recent months with most of the

exterior walls complete and work on the car park well-advanced. The mall is scheduled to open on time next summer, officials said.

Meanwhile, at Netzaberg, a new town where Soldiers will live just outside the boundary of the training area, much of the exterior work on a new elementary and middle school complex is finished.

Watsek said the school project is 50 percent complete, with construction due to finish by mid-October next year. A child development center and youth services complex at Netzaberg has just started construction along with a road surrounding the government-controlled portion of the town.

### Grafenwoehr/Vilseck German/American Ski and Snowboarding Club

### 2006/2007 Ski Trips

- Oct. 6-9 to Soelden, Austria
- Nov. 10-12 to Kaprun, Austria
- Nov. 22-26 to Stubai, Austria
- Jan. 12-15 to Kronplatz, Italy
- Feb. 9-12 to Bad Gastein, Austria
- March 16-18 to Dachstein, Austria

**Most trips are priced under 300 Euro, including bus ride, room w/ breakfast, and lift tickets.**

Contact Leigh-Ann De Jong at 475-7451 for additional info or attend our meetings. Meetings are every third Tuesday of each month.

PSA